

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/688,618

Examiner

Kuo-Liang Peng

Applicant(s)

SHINOZAKI, MASANORI

Art Unit

1712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/16/06 Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' amendment filed November 16, 2006 is acknowledged. Claims 1, 9 and 11-12 are amended. Claims 4 and 15 are deleted. Claims 13-14 are withdrawn.

2. In view of the patentability of Claim 5 and dependent claims thereof and the Examiner's amendment of Claims 13-14 set forth below, Examiner has reconsidered any restriction requirement regarding the instant application and has decided to give an action on the merits for all claims. Now, Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending for consideration.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brian H. Batzli on January 26, 2007.

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The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 5 (line 2), replace “the lubricant” with -- a lubricant on the sliding surface --.

In Claim 5 (line 3), delete “a suspension having”.

In Claim 13 (line 1), replace “(Withdrawn)” with -- (Currently amended) --.

In Claim 13 (line 1), replace “a lubricant” with -- preparing a sliding member having a sliding surface --.

In Claim 13 (line 3), replace “a sliding” with -- the sliding --.

In Claim 14 (line 1), replace “(Withdrawn)” with -- (Currently amended) --.

In Claim 14 (line 1), delete “for a lubricant”.

5. Claim rejection(s) under 35 USC 112 in the previous Office Action (Paper No. 081906) is/are removed.

6. Claim rejection(s) under 35 USC 102 and 103 in the previous Office Action (Paper No. 081906) is/are removed.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are allowed.

8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present claims are allowable for at least the following reason(s) over the closest references: Hokkirigawa (JP 2002-235016) and Hokkirigawa548 (US 2002/0114548).

Hokkirigawa discloses a coating composition comprising a first thermosetting resin and a carbonized rice bran ceramics derived from pulverizing a carbonized mass of a cured product of a rice bran and a second thermosetting resin such as a **liquid phenol resin**, etc. The first thermosetting resin can be the same as the second thermosetting resin (i.e., a liquid phenol resin) ([0011]-[0013]) Hokkirigawa teaches the use of the composition for coating paving **tiles**, construction **tiles**, office **floors** or machine shop **floors** so that these tiles and floors are **not slippery**. ([0002]-[0003] and [0011](9)) Thus, Hokkirigawa does not teach or fairly suggest a) a lubricant comprising a **liquid acrylsilicone resin** and a powder of rice bran ceramics set forth in Claims 1 and 9 and b) a **sliding member** and a manufacturing method for preparing a **sliding member**.

Hokkirigawa548 discloses a composition comprising a liquid thermosetting resin (i.e., **phenol resin**, etc.) and a rice bran ceramics. ([0009]-[0019] and Examples) A sleeve bearing arrangement contains a sleeve bearing and a shaft where either the sleeve bearing or the shaft (i.e., sliding members) is made of the composition. ([0005], [0009] and Figure 1) However, Hokkirigawa does not teach or fairly suggest a) a lubricant comprising a **liquid acrylsilicone resin** and a powder of rice bran ceramics set forth in Claims 1 and 9 and b) a sliding member and a manufacturing method for preparing a sliding member having a sliding surface where a lubricant composed of a liquid resin and a powder of rice bran ceramics suspended therein is applied on the sliding **surface**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuo-Liang Peng whose telephone number is (571) 272-1091. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski, can be reached on (571) 272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

klp
January 29, 2007


Kuo-Liang Peng
Primary Examiner
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